

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1202154-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 1

Page 31 ~ Duplicate;

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X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
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William Kestler, Lawyer
For Russell Means and Dennis Banks
Saint Paul, Minnesota

1-87481-6

b6
b7C

Deer Sir: If you and Banks
and Means and others like
you are at all concerned about
your physical welfare, stay away
from Pine Ridge and other Reser-
vations. There are plenty of
Indians who are waiting for
the chance to pull the trigger
and no advance warning will
be given. This is not an idle
threat.

(Title) _____

(File No.) _____

9-1842-1A

MAY 1 1974

File No. Q-1842Date Received 5-20-74From William M. Buntles
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

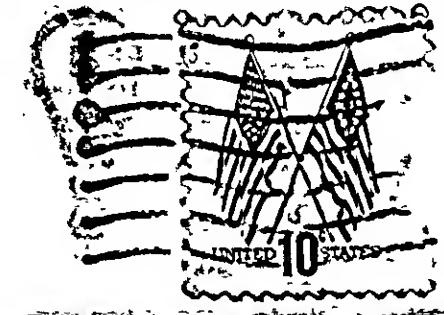
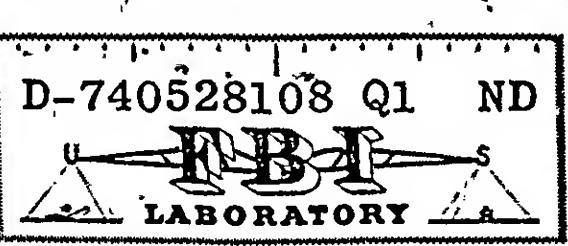
(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)To Be Returned Yes Receipt given Yes
 No No

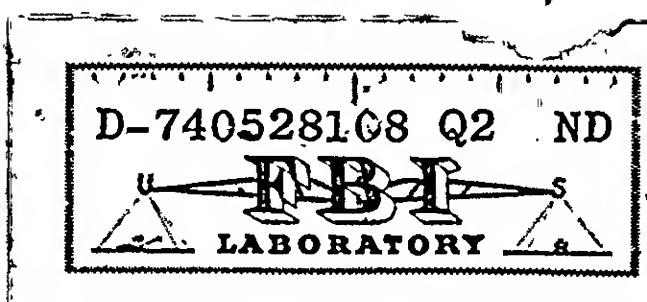
Description:

Threatening Letter + envelope
to William M.
Buntles Postmarked
April 26, 1974
sent Rec
5/22/74
wbb

AO



William Kestler, Lawyer
For Russell Meena and Dennis Barker
Saint Paul, Minnesota



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-NEW)

DATE: 5/17/74

FROM : SUPERVISOR [redacted]

b6
b7C

SUBJECT: UNSUB;
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

On May 17, 1974, in U. S. District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, Judge FRED J. NICHOL presiding, WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER announced in open court that he had just received a letter which threatened his life. This letter was dated 26 April, 1974, and postmarked U. S. Postal Service, South Dakota, 570.

The letter reads as follows:

"Deer Sir:

If you and BANKS and MEANS and others like you are at all concerned about your physical welfare, stay away from Pine Ridge and other Reservations. There are plenty of Indians who are waiting for the chance to pull the trigger and no advance warning will be given. This is not an idle threat."

U. S. District Judge FRED J. NICHOL referred the matter to ASSISTANT U. S. ATTORNEY HURD who gave the envelope and letter to SA [redacted]

LEADS

MINNEAPOLIS

AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

¹Will transmit extortion letter to FBI Laboratory.

²Conduct other appropriate extortion investigation.



(2) - Minneapolis

[redacted] wkb

(2)

Determine all persons
who handled letter
and submit them to
FBI Laboratory
via [redacted]

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-108-02

9-1842-2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1974	
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS	

F B I

Date: 5/17/74

008

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPEURGENT KTF

(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI - *LRF*
 FROM : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-NEW) (P)
1842

UNSUB; WILLIAM H. KUNSTLER - VICTIM, EXTORTION.

FOR INFORMATION, BUREAU BEING ADVISED OF CAPTIONED
 MATTER INASMUCH AS PRESS PUBLICITY MAY BE RECEIVED.

ON MAY 17, 1974, IN U. S. DISTRICT COURT, ST. PAUL,
 MINN., USDJ FRED J. NICHOL PRESIDING, WILLIAM H. KUNSTLER
 ANNOUNCED IN OPEN COURT THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A LETTER
 WHICH THREATENED HIS LIFE. LETTER, DATED APRIL 26, 1974, AND
 POSTMARKED U. S. POSTAL SERVICE, SOUTH DAKOTA, 570, STATES:

"DEER SIR:

"IF YOU AND BANKS AND MEANS AND OTHERS LIKE YOU
 ARE AT ALL CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR PHYSICAL WELFARE, STAY
 AWAY FROM PINE RIDGE AND OTHER RESERVATIONS. THERE
 ARE PLENTY OF INDIANS WHO ARE WAITING FOR THE CHANCE
 TO PULL THE TRIGGER AND NO ADVANCE WARNING WILL BE
 GIVEN. THIS IS NOT AN IDLE THREAT."

(1) - Minneapolis

GRS:rfr

(1)

R
R

Approved:

CH
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 6:30 p

b6
b7c

1042-3

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)~~MP 9-NEW
PAGE 2~~

USDJ NICHOL REFERRED MATTER TO AUSA R. D. HURD, WHO
TURNED OVER ENVELOPE AND LETTER TO FBI.
FBI Lab
MINNEAPOLIS WILL FURNISH LETTER TO BUREAU VIA AIRTEL.
INVESTIGATION CONTINUING.
END.

Approved: _____ Sent: _____ M Per: _____
Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription

May 20, 1974

On May 17, 1974, in United States District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, Judge FRED J. NICHOL presiding, WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER announced in open court that he had just received a letter which threatened his life. This letter was dated 26 April, 1974, and postmarked U. S. Postal Service, South Dakota, 570.

The letter reads as follows:

"Deer Sir:

If you and BANKS and MEANS and others like you are at all concerned about your physical welfare, stay away from Pine Ridge and other Reservations. There are plenty of Indians who are waiting for the chance to pull the trigger and no advance warning will be given. This is not an idle threat."

United States District Judge FRED J. NICHOL referred the matter to Assistant United States Attorney R. D. HURD, who gave the envelope and letter to Special Agent [redacted]

b6
b7C

Interviewed on

5/17/74

St. Paul, Minnesota

File # MP 9-1842 -4

by

SA [redacted]

:wkb

Date dictated

5/17/74

orig. on EE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842)

DATE: 5/20/74

FROM : SUPERVISOR

SUBJECT: CHANGED
UNSUB;
~~DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;~~
~~WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;~~
~~RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM;~~
~~EXTORTION~~

b6
b7C

Title being changed to add the names of victims
DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS.

On May 20, 1974, U. S. District Judge FRED J. NICHOL in chambers advised that he would prefer not to be fingerprinted for elimination fingerprint purposes and pointed out that his fingerprints are filed as a result of his application investigation in connection with his appointment as Federal Judge.

AUSA R. D. HURD, who also handled the extortion letter, made the same comment that his fingerprints are on file in connection with his application as Assistant United States Attorney.

Defense Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER pointed out that he, too, preferred not to be fingerprinted and that he was fingerprinted on numerous occasions as a member of the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, Marine Corps Serial Number 12029657, and Officer Serial Number 0-1633347.

LEAD

MINNEAPOLIS

Will inform Identification Division of above location of fingerprints which should be located and utilized for elimination purposes in the event latent fingerprints located on extortion letter of victims in captioned title



(2) - Minneapolis

:wkb

(2)
wkb

5010-108-02

Expedite letter to
Bureau - original
Bureau & xerox copies
also xerox for file
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the

9-1842-15

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 20 1974	
	

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842)

5/20/74

SUPERVISOR [redacted]

b6
b7C

CHANGED

UNSUB;

DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM;
EXTORTION

Title being changed to add the names of victims
DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS.

On May 20, 1974, U. S. District Judge FRED J. NICHOL in chambers advised that he would prefer not to be fingerprinted for elimination fingerprint purposes and pointed out that his fingerprints are filed as a result of his application investigation in connection with his appointment as Federal Judge.

AUSA R. D. HURD, who also handled the extortion letter, made the same comment that his fingerprints are on file in connection with his application as Assistant United States Attorney.

Defense Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER pointed out that he, too, preferred not to be fingerprinted and that he was fingerprinted on numerous occasions as a member of the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, Marine Corps Serial Number 12029657, and Officer Serial Number O-1633347.

LEAD

MINNEAPOLIS

Will inform Identification Division of above location of fingerprints which should be located and utilized for elimination purposes in the event latent fingerprints located on extortion letter of victims in captioned title

(2) - Minneapolis

[redacted] wkb

(2)

wkb

9-1842-5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 20 1974	
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (9-)

DATE: 5/20/74

FROM :

SUBJECT: Unsub;
Wm Knutsler-Victim
Information Concerning

b6
b7C

On 5/20/74, Robert Decker, President, Bemidji State College, advised that his wife had received a phone call from a unknown person at 2:25 PM, 5/18/74, who threatened to shoot Wm Knutsler if he spoke at the college Monday nite, 5/20/74.

[redacted] advised that at the above time and date an unknown caller called the [redacted] residence at Bemidji and stated "Is this the home of the president of the teacher's college". She said "yes it is" and he said "may I speak to him". She - "He is not here, may I have him call you when he returns?" He - "Just tell him Knutsler will be shot if he speaks here Monday night". [redacted] described the caller's voice as an elderly sounding, sort of quivering voice. Also, that the xxxx voice reminded her of an Indian's voice, however, she could not say it was or wasn't an Indian. There was no background noise. She believed it to be a local call.

Supervisor [redacted] was advised of the above 5/20/74, AM, and SA [redacted] at the St. Paul RA for the purpose of notifying the court and the victim of the threat inasmuch as he is scheduled to speak at the Hobson Memorial Ballroom, Bemidji State College, 8:00 PM, 5/20/74.

COP [redacted], Bemidji, and Sheriff Tom Tolman, Bemidji, were both advised of the above information 5/20/74, AM.

President Decker advised that he believes the person who called and referred to Bemidji State as a teachers college is probably an older individual because the college has not been known as a teachers college since the 1950's.

[redacted]
(1)



5010-108-02

9-1842-6

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 21 1974	
MAY 21 1974	
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS	

5/22/74

AIRTEL

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY;
JOHN C. GORDON, ROOM 2266
GENERAL CRIMES UNIT,
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

FROM: SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842) (P)

SUBJECT: CHANGED
UNSUB;
DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;
WILLIAM H. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM;
EXTORTION
WOUNDED KNEE RELATED

Title changed to include additional victims MEANS
and BANKS as reflected in details of letter.

Re Minneapolis nitel to the Director, May 17, 1974.

On May 17, 1974, in U. S. District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, Judge FRED J. NICKOL presiding, Defense Attorney WILLIAM H. KUNSTLER announced in open court he had just received a letter which threatened his life. This letter, dated 26 April, 1974 and postmarked Postal Service, South Dakota, 570 reads as follows:

"Dear Sir:

If you and BANKS and MEANS and others like you are at all concerned about your physical welfare, stay away from Pine Ridge and other Reservations. There are plenty of Indians who are waiting for the chance to pull the trigger and no advance warning will be given. This is not an idle threat."

4 - Durcan R.M.
① - Minneapolis
ALL: vib
(S) *ackf*

9-1842-77

Russell

X

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 22 1974	
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS	

b6
b7c

MP 9-1842

Judge NICEOL referred the matter to AUSA R. D. MURD who turned the original letter and envelope over to the FBI for investigation in relation to the extortion matter.

Enclosed herewith for the Laboratory is the original letter and envelope and one Xerox copy of the letter and envelope.

On May 20, 1974, U. S. District Judge FRED J. NICEOL, in chambers, advised that he preferred not to be fingerprinted for elimination purposes, pointing out that his fingerprints are on file as a result of his application in connection with his appointment as a Federal Judge. Judge Nichol is described as white male, date of birth 3/19/12.

AUSA R. D. MURD who also handled the extortion letter made the same comments, stating his fingerprints are on file in connection with his application as Assistant United States Attorney. He is described as white male, date of birth 3/5/41.

Defense attorney WILLIAM H. KESTLER pointed out that he too preferred to not be fingerprinted and that he was fingerprinted on numerous occasions as a member of the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, Marine Corps Serial Number 12029657, and Officer Serial Number O-1633347.

The Laboratory is requested to expedite comparison of the handwriting on the letter and envelope with the anonymous letter file and cause a latent fingerprint examination to be conducted, noting the above individuals are known to have handled both the envelope and the letter.

LEADS

MINNEAPOLIS

AT PIERRE AND RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

Will display copy of above referred to letter and envelope to officers of the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Rosebud and Pine Reservations in an effort to determine if the handwriting appearing thereon appears familiar to them as being identical to the handwriting of anyone known to them.

MP 9-1842

AT PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

Will contact postal authorities in an effort to further identify the location at which this letter may have been mailed.

* * *

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Kunstler sent letter threat

U.S. District Judge Fred Nichol today asked the FBI to investigate a threat mailed to William Kunstler, a defense attorney at the Wounded Knee trial in St. Paul.

Kunstler told the judge

this morning that he received the unsigned letter yesterday. It also threatens co-defendants Dennis Banks and Russell Means.

The letter, mailed from South Dakota and carrying an April 26 postmark,

warns them to "stay away from Pine Ridge and other reservations. There are plenty of Indians who are waiting for the chance to pull the trigger and no advance warning will be given...."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4A Minneapolis Star
Minneapolis, MN.

Date: May 17, 1974
Edition: Evening
Author:
Editor: Robert C. King
Title: William Knustler:
Extortion

Character:

or

Classification: 9-1842 - 8
Submitting Office: Minneapolis

Being Investigated

Dug sent 3.
5/20/74
JW

LIBRARY
5-17-74
1 - 1

REPORT
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: SAC, Minneapolis (9-1842)

Date: May 30, 1974

Re: UNSUB; DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM;
EXTORTION
WOUNDED KNEE RELATEDFBI File No.
Lab. No.

D-740528108 ND

Specimens received 5/28/74

- Q1 Envelope postmarked "U.S. POSTAL SERVICE SD
570 PM 26 APR 1974," bearing the handwritten
address "William Kunstler, Lawyer For Russell Means
and Dennis Banks Saint Paul, Minnesota"
- Q2 Sheet of lined paper bearing handwritten message
beginning "Deer Sir: If you and Banks and Means"

Result of examination:

The questioned specimens were not identified
in the Anonymous Letter File. Appropriate copies have been
added thereto.

No watermarks or indented writing of value,
was found on the questioned specimens.

Q1 and Q2 were photographed and will be
returned separately.

9-1842-9



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: SAC, Minneapolis (9-1842)

Date: May 30, 1974

From: Director, FBI

Re: UNSUB; DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM;
EXTORTION
WOUNDED KNEE RELATED.

FBI File No.

Lab. No.

D-740528108 ND

Examination requested by: Minneapolis

Reference: Airtel 5/22/74

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Remarks:

Q1 and Q2 will be returned with the results
of the fingerprint examination.

9-1842-10

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 3 1974	
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS	

[Handwritten signature over stamp]

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

b6
b7C

DO NOT INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE
PAGE (S) INFORMATION IN
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

F B I

Transmit in Airtel Via Airtel (Precedence)

(Type in plaintext or code) -----

6-3-74
(Date)

To: SAC, Minneapolis (9-1842)

✓ From: Director, FBI

UNSUB.;
DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM
EXTORTION
WOUNDED KNEE RELATED

Reurairtel 5-22-74, submitting envelope, Q1, and one-page letter, Q2, for laboratory and latent print examinations.

Q1 and Q2 further described in separate Laboratory report.

No latent prints of value developed on enclosed specimens.

Enc. (2)

(This line for LEFT MARGIN.)

(Do not type BEYOND THIS MARGIN.)

(Do not type below this line.)

9-1842-11

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
1974	
MINNEAPOLIS	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

b6
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription

June 11, 1974

[redacted] Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA),
subsequent to the identification of the interviewing Agent
furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised he was familiar with the recent
alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul,
Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

After reviewing the handwriting sample of this
letter, [redacted] stated that the characteristics of this
letter were unfamiliar to him. [redacted] in addition stated
he had no information concerning this letter which would assist
the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

b6
b7C

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842 - 12
by [redacted] SA [redacted] JR. [redacted] :klk Date dictated 6/5/74

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

orig. in EE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 11, 1974

[redacted] Agency Special Officer, subsequent to the identification of the interviewing Agent furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised she was familiar with the recent alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul, Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

After reviewing the handwriting sample of this letter, [redacted] stated that the characteristics of this letter were unfamiliar to her. [redacted] in addition stated she had no information concerning this letter which would assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

b6
b7C

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842-13

by [redacted] SA [redacted] JR. [redacted] klk Date dictated 6/5/74

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

orig. in EE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 11, 1974

[redacted] Criminal Investigator, Bureau of b6
Indian Affairs (BIA), subsequent to the identification of the b7C
interviewing Agent furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised he was familiar with the recent alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul, Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

After reviewing the handwriting sample of this letter, [redacted] stated that the characteristics of this letter were unfamiliar to him. [redacted] in addition stated he had no information concerning this letter which would assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842 - 14

by [redacted] SA [redacted] JR. [redacted] klk Date dictated 6/5/74

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

orig. in ee

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 11, 1974

JOSEPH JACOBS, Chief of Police, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), subsequent to the identification of the interviewing Agent furnished the following information:

JACOBS advised he was familiar with the recent alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul, Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

After reviewing the handwriting sample of this letter, JACOBS stated that the characteristics of this letter were unfamiliar to him. JACOBS in addition stated he had no information concerning this letter which would assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842-15

by SA [redacted] JR. [redacted] klk Date dictated 6/5/74 b6
b7C

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

orig. in 82

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 11, 1974

[redacted] Criminal Investigator, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), subsequent to the identification of the interviewing Agent furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised he was familiar with the recent alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul, Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

[redacted] After reviewing the handwriting sample of this letter, [redacted] stated that the characteristics of this letter were unfamiliar to him. [redacted] in addition stated he had no information concerning this letter which would assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

b6
b7C

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842-16

by [redacted] SA [redacted] JR. [redacted] klk Date dictated 6/5/74

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

orig. in EE

MP 9-1842

392 Federal Building, U. S. Court House
110 South Fourth Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

June 20, 1974

Honorable William F. Clayton
United States Attorney
Federal Building
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101

Attention: Assistant United States
Attorney R. D. Hurd

Dear Mr. Clayton:

[redacted] Re conversation between Special Agent [redacted]
[redacted] and Assistant United States Attorney R. D. Hurd on
June 20, 1974.

b6
b7C

Per referenced conversation, Mr. Hurd advised that he had approached Federal District Judge Fred J. Nichol, who is currently in St. Paul, Minnesota, trying the case of Wounded Knee defendants Russell Charles Means and Dennis James Banks, concerning the obtaining of two petitions which had been entered into evidence from the court in order that the FBI could submit these to the FBI Laboratory for a handwriting comparison. This handwriting comparison between the petitions and the letter received by William M. Kunstler, attorney for Russell Means, threatening his life and the life of defendants Means and Banks would be made to determine if any of those persons whose signatures appeared on either of the petitions could possibly have written the threatening letter.

Mr. Hurd advised that in conversation with Judge Nichol, Judge Nichol had indicated that he had no objections to releasing the petitions from evidence; however, the Government prosecutors would have to obtain defense counsel's permission. Mr. Hurd further advised that to date he has been unable to obtain permission from defense counsel.

W.W.B.
Minneapolis
wkb

9-1842-17

It is requested that you maintain contact with defense counsel and attempt to gain permission for the release from evidence of these petitions so that they may be expeditiously forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for appropriate examinations and comparisons.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH H. TRIMBACH
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842) (P)

DATE: 6/28/74

FROM : SA [redacted]

SUBJECT: UNSUB;
DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM
EXTORTION
WOUNDED KNEE RELATED

b6
b7C

Re Minneapolis airtel to Bureau dated 5/22/74.

On 5/28/74 Captain of Police [redacted]
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Police Officer [redacted]
[redacted] and Tribal Police Officer, Rosebud Police
Department, Rosebud, South Dakota, [redacted] could
not identify the writer of a note which was sent to
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER in a letter postmarked 4/26/74
threatening to kill KUNSTLER, MEANS, and BANKS if they
set foot on the Reservation.

2 - Minneapolis
[redacted] sks

(2)

S

[Signature]

9-1842-19

SEARCHED	1	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	2	FILED
JULY 1 1974		1974
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS		MINNEAPOLIS
[Redacted]		



5010-108-02

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO :SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842) (P)

DATE: 6/27/74

FROM :SA [REDACTED] JR.

SUBJECT:UNKNOWN SUBJECT;

DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM
EXTORTION - WOUNDED KNEE RELATED

Reference Minneapolis airtel to Director dated 5/22/74.

On 5/24/74, Special Agent [REDACTED] Minneapolis, Division, was requested by this writer to obtain the original copies of petitions entitled "Resolution Of Citizens Of The District Of South Dakota dated 3/3/73, and 3/4/73" from United States District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota. As related to Special Agent [REDACTED] several signatures which are attached to both of these resolutions bear a resemblance to the extortion letter received by captioned victims.

b6
b7C

Several interviews have been conducted at Pine Ridge, South Dakota, of officials from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) concerning captioned matter with negative results.

If feasible, it is requested that the original copies presently entered into evidence, United States District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, of the resolutions dated 3/3/74, and 3/4/74, be obtained and forwarded to the FBI Laboratory, Document Section, for comparison purposes in connection with captioned matter.



9-1842-20

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
JUN 27 1974	
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS	
T	

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 6/14/74

[redacted] United States Post Office, Pierre, South Dakota, was contacted regarding the postmark on an envelope postmarked 26 April, 1974, addressed to WILLIAM KUNSTLER, lawyer for RUSSELL MEANS and DENNIS BANKS, St. Paul, Minnesota. The zip code on the postmark was 570.

[redacted] stated that a letter with that postmark zip code on it had to be sent from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, or the nearby vicinity. He stated that zip code 570 and 571 includes the area of South Dakota within the boundary line extending from Brookings, South Dakota, west to Volga, south to Madison, west to the U.S. 81 Junction, and then south to Unityville and then south to Yankton, and east to the Iowa border. [redacted] advised that the letter sent to KUNSTLER could not have been sent from any other location than a town or city within the boundaries which he set out. He stated that the letter could not have been sent from any Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

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b7C

Interviewed on 6/4/74 at Pierre, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842 -2
 by SA [redacted] sk Date dictated 6/10/74

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

mug in EE 1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MINNEAPOLIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MINNEAPOLIS	DATE 8/14/74	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/17/74 - 8/13/74
TITLE OF CASE UNSUB; DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM; WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM; RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY [Redacted]	TYPED BY wkb
		CHARACTER OF CASE EXTORTION	

REFERENCE

Re Minneapolis airtel to Director, 5/22/74.

- P -

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Reporting period in this matter is excessive due to attempts to obtain items of evidence now introduced in court at St. Paul, Minnesota, in the Wounded Knee leadership case. This evidence is felt to be needed for the purpose of comparing handwriting by the FBI Laboratory.

A copy of this report is being provided to U. S. Attorney, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, inasmuch as they are currently prosecuting Wounded Knee leadership trials.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW			
COPIES MADE: 4 - Bureau (9-57729) 1 - United States Attorney, Minneapolis, Minnesota 1 - United States Attorney, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 3 - Minneapolis (9-1842) <i>[Handwritten notes and signatures]</i>					

Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations
Agency					
Request Recd.					
Date Fwd.					
How Fwd.					
By					

9-1842-22

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MP 9-1842

Four copies of this report being provided to Bureau due to Wounded Knee involvement and Bureau's possible desire to disseminate to the Department.

LEADS

MINNEAPOLIS

AT PINE RIDGE, ROSEBUD AND SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Will contact logical sources in an attempt to ascertain who may have sent the extortion letter to Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER.

AT ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Will maintain contact with Assistant U. S. Attorneys trying Wounded Knee case in an attempt to gain release of petitions now entered in evidence and submit these to FBI Laboratory for handwriting comparison.

B*

COVER PAGE

OO
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:
 1 - UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
 1 - UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Report of: [redacted] Office: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
 Date: AUGUST 14, 1974

Field Office File #: 9-1842 Bureau File #: 9-57729 b6
 b7C

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
 DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;
 WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;
 RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM

Character: EXTORTION

Synopsis: On 5/17/74, in USDC, St. Paul, Minnesota, Defense Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER announced in open court that he had just received a letter which threatened his life. USDJ FRED J. NICHOL referred the matter to AUSA R. D. HURD, who provided the envelope and letter to a Special Agent of the FBI for investigation. On 5/20/74, USDJ NICHOL, AUSA HURD and Attorney KUNSTLER, all of whom had handled the extortion letter and envelope, declined to be fingerprinted; however, provided identifying information and also stated that they had previously been fingerprinted. Negative results of FBI Latent Fingerprint examination and anonymous letter file set forth. Interviews of BIA Special Officer and Police, Pine Ridge, South Dakota, advise they have no knowledge of who may have sent KUNSTLER an extortion letter. U. S. Postal authorities, Pierre, South Dakota, advise postmark bearing partial Zip Code 570 includes an area in and around Sioux Falls, South Dakota. No suspects developed; investigation continuing.

- P -

Details:

This matter was predicated upon receipt of a complaint from Defense Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER to Assistant U. S. Attorney (AUSA) RICHARD D. HURD, prosecuting Wounded Knee trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

MP 9-1842

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent [redacted] at St. Paul, Minnesota:

On May 20, 1974, U. S. District Judge (USDJ) FRED J. NICHOL in chambers advised that he would prefer not to be fingerprinted for elimination fingerprint purposes and pointed out that his fingerprints are filed as a result of his application investigation in connection with his appointment as Federal Judge.

AUSA RICHARD D. HURD, who also handled the extortion letter, made the same comment that his fingerprints are on file in connection with his application as Assistant United States Attorney.

Defense Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER pointed out that he, too, preferred not to be fingerprinted and that he was fingerprinted on numerous occasions as a member of the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, Marine Corps Serial Number 12029657, and Officer Serial Number 0-1633347.

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MP 9-1842

By communication dated June 3, 1974, FBI Laboratory advised that no latent prints of value had been located on Q1 or Q2.

MP 9-1842

On June 20, 1974, the following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at St. Paul, Minnesota:

AUSA RICHARD D. HURD was advised that the possibility existed that certain signatures contained on two petitions which had been entered into evidence at the Wounded Knee leadership trial of DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS may be identical with the handwriting on the extortion note and envelope sent to Attorney WILLIAM KUNSTLER. Mr. HURD was requested to contact Federal District Judge FRED J. NICHOL and request that the original of two petitions entitled, "Resolution of Citizens of the District of South Dakota," dated March 3, 1973, and March 4, 1973, be released from evidence in order that the FBI Laboratory may conduct the appropriate handwriting examinations.

Mr. HURD advised that in his conversations with Judge NICHOL, Judge NICHOL had stated that he had no objection to releasing the petitions from evidence; however, the Government prosecutors would have to obtain defense counsel's permission. Mr. HURD advised that he had been unable to gain this permission from defense counsel to date.

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MP 9-1842

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent [redacted] at Rosebud, South Dakota:

On May 28, 1974, Captain of Police [redacted]
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Police Officer [redacted]
and Tribal Police Officer [redacted] Rosebud Police Department, Rosebud,
South Dakota, [redacted] could not identify the writer of a
note which was sent to WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER in a letter
postmarked April 26, 1974, threatening to kill KUNSTLER,
MEANS and BANKS if they set foot on the Reservation.

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Contact has been maintained on a daily basis with
the U. S. Attorney's Office, Sioux Falls, South Dakota,
primarily with AUSA HURD and AUSA [redacted] who are
currently prosecuting Wounded Knee leadership cases at St. Paul,
Minnesota, and to date defense counsel has not agreed to
release original petitions and it does not appear that they
intend to do so.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS [REDACTED] (P) DATE: 8/23/74

FROM : SA [REDACTED] JR.

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

Dates of Contact

8/1/74, 8/14/74, 8/22/74File #s on which [REDACTED] when CI provides positive information)
89-143 ([REDACTED] ET AL)42-12124 ([REDACTED]9-1842 (UNUB; DENNI JAMES BANK - VICTIM)157-3726 [REDACTED]157-3783 (UNUB; EM - AIM)70-8520 [REDACTED]b6
b7C
b7D

Purpose and results of contact

- NEGATIVE
 POSITIVE
 STATISTIC

See Substantive file

 POSITIVE ASSIGNMENT GIVEN (Ghetto only)Has informant shown any indication of emotional instability, unreliability or furnishing false information? NO Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact, including information concerning narcotics.

Coverage SAME

PERSONAL DATA

7 - Minneapolis

(1 - 89-143)

(1 - 42-12124)

(1 - 9-1842)

(1 - 157-3726)

(1 - 157-3783)

(1 - 70-8520)

X

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 26 1974	
FBI-MINNEAPOLIS	

(P)

[REDACTED]
kik KKK
(7)

MP 89-143

157-3783

[redacted] Source advised he is not familiar with [redacted]
of California.

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157-3726

Source advised he is not familiar with [redacted]

70-8520

[redacted] Source advised [redacted], also known as [redacted]
[redacted] is presently in the State Penitentiary, Sioux
Falls, South Dakota, serving a state sentence along with his
brother, [redacted]

42-12124

Source advised he is not acquainted with [redacted]
[redacted]

9-1842

Source advised he is not familiar with any extortion
attempts upon DENNIS JAMES BANKS, WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER, and -
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS. Source advised if there was any information
concerning this extortion, people would be talking about
it and that is the reason he has not heard of anything concerning
it.

89-143

Source advised that he was told by [redacted]
prior to his death that [redacted] JR., was in the U-haul
van at the time of the shooting of the Federal Bureau of
Investigation (FBI) Agents at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. Source
stated he will attempt to ascertain [redacted]
[redacted] and [redacted], also known
as [redacted] in connection with the FBI shooting at Wounded
Knee, South Dakota.

TO: SAC, MINNEAPOLIS [redacted] (P)

FROM: SA [redacted] JR.

SUBJECT: [redacted]

Date received

8/22/74

Date prepared

8/23/74

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b7D

Received from (name or symbol number)

Received by

SA [redacted]

JR.

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

in person by telephone by mail orally recording device written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date

Dictated 8/23/74 to [redacted]

Date of Report

8/23/74

Transcribed 8/23/74

Date(s) of activity

8/1/74, 8/14/74, 8/22/74

Authenticated
by Informant

Brief description of activity or material

AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT AND RELATED CASES

File where original is located if not attached

* INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY AN ASTERISK (*) ONLY ATTENDED A MEETING AND DID NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE.
VIOLENCE OR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

Information recorded on a card index by _____ on date _____

Remarks:

7 - Minneapolis
(1 - 89-143)
(1 - 42-12124)
(1 - 9-1842)
(1 - 157-3726)
(1 - 157-3783)
(1 - 70-8520)

[redacted]
klk [initials]
(7)

Block Stamp 9042-24

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 27 1974	
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS	

[Signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO :SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842) (P)

DATE: 9/17/74

FROM :SA [REDACTED] JR.

SUBJECT:UNSUB;

DENNIS J. BANKS - VICTIM;
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM.
EXTORTION
OO: MINNEAPOLIS

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b7C

[REDACTED]
Reference Minneapolis report of Special Agent (SA)
[REDACTED] 8/14/74.

[REDACTED]
The following investigation was conducted by SA
[REDACTED] JR., at Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Several contacts have been made with logical sources in an attempt to ascertain who may have sent the extortion letter to captioned victims. No logical information has been obtained to date and due to the fact of the refusal by the defense to provide identifying information to assist the FBI in their investigation, no further investigation or contacts will be made by the Rapid City Resident Agency regarding captioned matter.

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(2) - Minneapolis
[REDACTED]
k1k K1k
(2)



5010-108-02

O-FORM
REC'D 11/12/74
RTD. 11/14/74
RPT. BY 11/20/74

9-1842-25

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 17 1974	
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS	

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
Awaiting Release Of Possible Evidence W.K. Leadership Trial

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MINNEAPOLIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MINNEAPOLIS	DATE 11/18/74	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/23/74 - 11/14/74
TITLE OF CASE UNSUB; DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM; WILLIAM H. KUNTZLER - VICTIM; RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY [Redacted]	TYPED BY dlk
		CHARACTER OF CASE EXTORTION	

REFERENCE:

Minneapolis report of SA [Redacted]

dated 8/14/74.

(P*)

b6
b7CADMINISTRATIVE:

A copy of this report is being provided to the U.S. Attorney, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, inasmuch as they have responsibility and are interested in Wounded Knee-related cases.

Four copies of this report are being provided to the Bureau due to the Wounded Knee involvement and Bureau's possible desire to disseminate this information to the Department.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED *lll*SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE

- 4 - Bureau (9-57729)
 - 1 - USA, Minneapolis, Minnesota
 - 1 - USA, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
 - (2) - Minneapolis (9-1842)
- lll*

Searched.....
Serialized.....
Indexed.....
Filed.....

Notations

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

9-1842-26

All logical leads have been covered in this matter with the exception of submission to the Laboratory of the original of a petition entitled, "Resolution of Citizens of the District of South Dakota". This petition remains in the custody of U. S. District Court, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as evidence which was introduced during the MEANS and BANKS leadership trial at St. Paul, Minnesota. Inasmuch as appeals may be lengthy, this matter is being placed in a pending-inactive status until conclusion of all appeals or until such time as items of evidence can be released.

Contacts have been made with logical sources in South Dakota and Minneapolis in an attempt to ascertain the identity of the person preparing the extortion note. No information has been developed to date by any source familiar with the American Indian Movement or in a position to supply such information of a positive nature.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Copy to: 1 - USA, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA
1 - USA, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Report of: [redacted] **Office:** MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
Date: NOVEMBER 18, 1974

Field Office File #: 9-18420 **Bureau File #:** 9-57729

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;
WILLIAM M. KUNTZLER - VICTIM;
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM

Character: EXTORTION

Synopsis: On September 16, 1974, U. S. District Judge FREDERICK J. NICHOL dismissed all charges against DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS concerning their involvement at the Wounded Knee takeover. All evidence in the custody of U. S. District Court was returned to Clerk of Court's Office, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, pending appeals. During September, October and November, members of U. S. Attorney's Office, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, have advised that no disposition has been made of any evidence in the MEANS or BANKS case. A formal motion for appeal was filed by the Government concerning dismissal of charges.

(P*)

DETAILS:

On September 16, 1974, at St. Paul, Minnesota, Federal District Judge FREDERICK J. NICHOL accepted a motion of dismissal from the defendants and dismissed all remaining charges against DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS.

On October 1, 1974, [redacted] Assistant U. S. Attorney, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, advised that all evidence including a petition entitled, "Resolution of Citizens of the District of South Dakota", dated March 3 and March 4, 1973, were still in the custody of the Clerk of Court at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

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[redacted] On November 6, 1974, Departmental Attorney [redacted]
[redacted] advised that the U. S. Department of Justice was
definitely filing an appeal with the Eighth Circuit Court of
Appeals, St. Louis, Missouri, concerning Judge NICHOL's dis-
missal order of September 16, 1974.

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[redacted] On November 13, 1974, Assistant U. S. Attorney
[redacted] was contacted and advised that as yet no
decision has been made in relation to evidence being held in
connection with the Wounded Knee leadership trial of DENNIS
JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS; however, no disposition
of the evidence would probably be made until the conclusion
of the Government's appeal.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MINNEAPOLIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MINNEAPOLIS	DATE 5/23/75	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 12/10/74 - 5/23/75
TITLE OF CASE UNSUB; DENNIS JAMES BANKS ~ VICTIM; WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER ~ VICTIM; RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS ~ VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA [redacted]	TYPED BY jmf
		CHARACTER OF CASE EXTORTION	

REFERENCE:

Minneapolis report of SA [redacted] 11/18/74.

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- C -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

A copy of this report is being provided to USA Sioux Falls, South Dakota, inasmuch as they have responsibility for Wounded Knee related cases.

Four copies of this report are being provided to the Bureau due to the Wounded Knee involvement and the Bureau's interest in Wounded Knee related matters.

All prior Minneapolis reports are being referenced in the first paragraph of the details at the specific request and the

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED *[Signature]*SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

- 4 - Bureau (9-57729)
- 1 - USA, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 1 - USA, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- 1 - Minneapolis (9-1842)

Searched _____

Serialized _____

Indexed _____

Filed _____

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Notarized _____

Agency _____

Request Recd. _____

Date Fwd. _____

How Fwd. _____

By **DO NOT DESTROY**
PENDING LITIGATION

MP 9-1842

administrative assistance of the United States Attorneys.

The length of time since the last Minneapolis report is lengthy, however, contact has been maintained with the United States Attorneys in Minneapolis and Sioux Falls.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:
 1 - USA, Minneapolis, Minnesota
 1 - USA, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Report of: [redacted] Office: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
 Date: May 23, 1975

Field Office File #: 9-1842 Bureau File #: 9-57729

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
 DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;
 WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;
 RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM

Character: EXTORTION

Synopsis: On 5/23/75, AUSA [redacted] JR., Minneapolis,
 Minnesota, declined prosecution of this matter.

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- C -

DETAILS:

Reference is made to Minneapolis report of SA [redacted]
 dated August 14, 1974, and Minneapolis report of SA [redacted]
 dated November 18, 1974.

On May 23, 1975, SA [redacted] Minneapolis Division, and
 Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) [redacted] JR.,
 Minneapolis, Minnesota, discussed the prosecutive merit of the above
 entitled case. During this conversation, SA [redacted] advised Mr. [redacted]
 as follows:

On May 17, 1974, while in United States District Court,
 St. Paul, Minnesota, during the Wounded Knee leadership trial of
 DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS, Attorney WILLIAM M.
 KUNSTLER announced in court that he had just received a letter which
 threatened his life. Investigation determined that this letter was
 postmarked from Sioux Falls on April 26, 1974. Mr. KUNSTLER and other
 defendants threatened in this letter were uncooperative with the FBI's
 investigation. Extensive investigation by the FBI has failed to
 develop any latent fingerprints of value on the extortion letter and
 no logical suspects have been developed.

It was also pointed out to Mr. [redacted] that on the morning
 of May 17, 1974, when Mr. KUNSTLER first announced this threat,
 defendant MEANS had failed to appear in court for the opening session

MP 9-1842

and it was apparent that this may possibly have been a delaying tactic on the part of Mr. KUNSTLER.

After being advised of the above information, Mr. [redacted] declined prosecution in the above matter due to the lack of logical suspects and the fact that a period of approximately three weeks had transpired from the date the letter was mailed until it was reported to the FBI by the victim.

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